

## REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1-30 presently stand subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

### Examiner's Inquiry Regarding Election/Restriction

The Examiner states that restriction is required for "invention I" (claims 1-12, 21-30) and "invention II" (claims 13-20). The Examiner further states "inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination" and that subcombination II has separate utility such as embedding hidden information in an augmented binary firmware driver.

(Office Action mailed 9/07/2007, page 2)

Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect to continue prosecuting claims 1-12, 21-30 in the instant application.

### *Drawings*

The Office Action mailed on September 6, 2007 did not indicate whether the drawings are acceptable or objectionable to the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request an indication from the Examiner whether the drawings are accepted.

## CONCLUSION

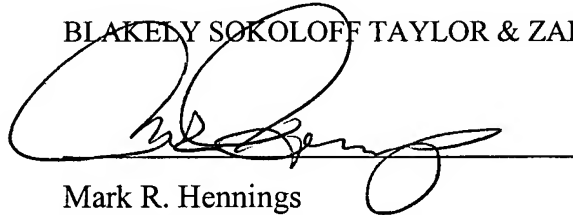
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

## CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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